

DRAFT

Serial No. 09/485,005

-2-

Art Unit: 1641

6. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said filter is comprised of material with low protein adsorption.

9. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 wherein detergent- or urea-soluble material of the sample is simultaneously with or subsequent to step (a), sucked through said filter.

13. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 further comprising the following steps prior to step (a):

(a') incubating a fusion protein comprising a peptide or polypeptide that enhances solubility or prevents aggregation of said fusion protein, an amyloidogenic peptide or polypeptide that has the ability to self-assemble into amyloid-like fibrils or protein aggregates when released from said fusion protein and a cleavable site that separates the above-mentioned components of the fusion protein in the presence of a suspected inhibitor of amyloid-like fibril or protein aggregate formation; and

(a'') simultaneously with or after step (a'), further incubating with a compound that induces cleavage at said cleavage site.

21. (Amended) An inhibitor of amyloid-like fibril or protein aggregate formation identified by the method of claim 14.

24. (Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising

(i) the fusion protein of any one of the preceding claims.

25. (Amended) The diagnostic composition of claim 24 further comprising

(ii) the filter of any one of the preceding claims optionally or preferably contained in a microtiter plate; and optionally

(iii) the compound that induces cleavage of any one of the preceding claims; and optionally;

(iv) an inhibitor of said compound of (iii); and optionally